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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: November 17, 1964
Early afternoon

SUBJECT:

Chinese Communists Arrested by
Government of Brazil

PARTICIPANTS:

Carlos Lacerda - Governor of State of Guanabara, Brazil
Assistant Secretary Thomas C. Mann, ARA
Mr. John D'Rourke, Editor, Washington Daily News
Mr. Ben Meyer, A.P.

COPIES TO:

C - Ambassador Thompson
FE - Mr. Bundy
L - Mr. Lehner
ARA/IA/BR - Mr. Burton
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W.H. - Mr. Bundy
CIA - [REDACTED]
Embassy, Rio de Janeiro

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ARA - Mr. Adams

Carlos Lacerda said to me, in the presence of John O'Rourke and Ben Meyer at the Brazilian Embassy, that he had an idea to advance which was not of course necessarily the idea of the Brazilian Government. It was:

Of the eleven Chinese Communists arrested by the Government of Brazil there was enough evidence against two to obtain a conviction on a preliminary hearing. Lacerda said that he thought it would be good for Brazil and for the Free World if these eleven prisoners would be exchanged for British and American prisoners of the Chinese Communists. He had talked with someone in Brazil and understood that the British had a minister or priest and one other national in Chinese Communist hands. He understood there were several Americans. I said that I thought this would be an excellent idea and would inform my colleagues of his suggestion.

Later Governor Lacerda, accompanied by Ambassador Magalhães, called on us in the office during the same day and in the course of the conversation the Governor said that the Ambassador had agreed to recommend this proposal to his government in Rio.

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